



# STRANGULATION

## IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

### FACT SHEET

## STRANGULATION:

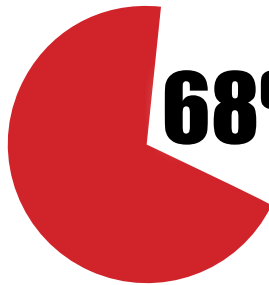
the obstruction of blood vessels and/or airflow in the neck resulting in asphyxia.



**1 in 4**

women will experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

Of women at high risk, up to...

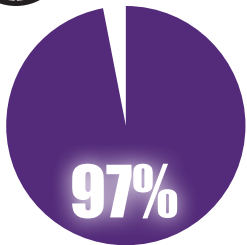


**68%**

will experience near-fatal strangulation by their partner.<sup>2</sup>



Loss of consciousness can occur within 5 - 10 seconds. Death within minutes.<sup>2</sup>



**97%**

are strangled manually (with hands).<sup>3</sup>



**38%**

report losing consciousness.<sup>4</sup>



**35%**

are strangled along with sexual assault/abuse.<sup>5</sup>  
**9%** are also pregnant.<sup>4</sup>



**70%**

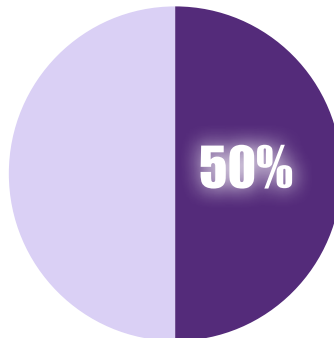
of strangled women believed they were going to die.<sup>6</sup>

And odds for homicide increase **750%**

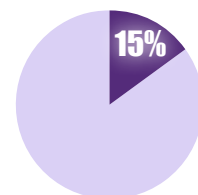
for victims who have been previously strangled, compared to victims who have never been strangled.<sup>7</sup>

## HOWEVER...

Oftentimes, even in fatal cases, there are **NO EXTERNAL SIGNS** of injury.<sup>3</sup>



Only half of victims have visible injuries



Of these, only 15% could be photographed

# STRANGULATION

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS <sup>2</sup>

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

#### NEUROLOGICAL

- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- Extremity weakness
- Difficulty speaking
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

#### EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

#### FACE

- Petechiae (tiny red spots—slightly red or florid)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

#### CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

#### VOICE & THROAT CHANGES

- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Clearing the throat
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Drooling
- Sore throat
- Stridor

#### SCALP

- Petechiae
- Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
- Bump to the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

#### EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

#### MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

#### NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (thumb or fingers)
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

#### BREATHING CHANGES

- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

## CONSEQUENCES <sup>9</sup>

### PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY

PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, memory problems, nightmares, anxiety, severe stress reaction, amnesia, and psychosis.

### DELAYED FATALITY

Death can occur days or weeks after the attack due to carotid artery dissection and respiratory complications such as pneumonia, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

Today,  
**47 States**  
**20 Tribes** and  
**2 US Territories**  
have passed felony  
strangulation laws.<sup>8</sup>

**Strangulation and suffocation** is also included in  
**Federal (2013) and Military (2010) Codes**



TRAINING INSTITUTE  
on  
STRANGULATION  
PREVENTION

a program of Alliance for HOPE International

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